

CLAIMS

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1. An actuator assembly including a motor having a body portion and a drive shaft, the drive shaft being drivably connected to a pinion, the pinion drivingly engaging an array of gear teeth of a gear rack the array of gear teeth having a first side adjacent the motor, in which the gear rack is pivotally mounted via a pivot about a pivot axis on said first side of the array of gear teeth.

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2. An actuator assembly as defined in Claim 1 in which the pivot axis passes through the body portion.

3. An actuator assembly as defined in Claim 1 or 2 in which the pivot axis is proximate that end of the motor remote from the pinion.

4. An actuator assembly as defined in any preceding claim in which the gear rack includes at least one stop to limit movement of the rack relative to the body portion.

5. An actuator assembly as defined in Claim 4 in which the or each stop engages the drive shaft.

6. An actuator assembly as defined in Claim 5 in which the or each stop engages a portion of the drive shaft on the side of the pinion remote from the motor.

7. An actuator assembly as defined in any preceding claim in which the drive shaft passes between the array of gear teeth and a guide portion proximate the gear teeth.

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8. An actuator assembly as defined in Claim 7 when dependent on any one of Claim 4-6 in which the guide portion is supported by the or each stop.

9. An actuator assembly as defined in any preceding claim which further includes a housing in which the motor is secured.

10. An actuator assembly as defined in Claim 9 in which the pivot is mounted on the housing.

11. An actuator assembly as defined in Claim 9 or 10 in which the pivot includes a boss of the gear rack to which in use a lever is attached.

12. An actuator assembly as defined in Claim 11 in which the boss at least partially projects through the housing.

13. An actuator assembly as defined in any one of Claims 9-12 in which the drive shaft engages the housing.

14. An actuator assembly as defined in any one of Claims 9-13 in which the housing is substantially sealed.

15. An actuator assembly as defined in any one of Claims 9-14 in which the housing has at least a first and second part, the parts having co-operating cut-outs to provide for at least one end of the drive shaft.

16. An actuator assembly as defined in any one of Claims 1-9 or 11-15 when dependent upon Claim 9 in which the pivot is mounted on the body portion.

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17. An actuator assembly including a motor having a body portion and a drive shaft, the drive shaft being drivably connected to a pinion, the pinion drivingly engaging an array of gear teeth of a gear rack with the gear rack being mounted for movement on the body portion.

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~~18. An actuator assembly as defined in any preceding claim in which the motor is an electric motor.~~

19. An actuator assembly as herein before described with reference to or as shown in figures 1-3 of the accompanying drawings.

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